

Sunday, February 8, 2004

414th CAB completes three major community projects

Story by Mark S. Rickert, 372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Baghdad, Iraq – In the western region of Abu Ghraib, the community has plenty to celebrate. In less than two months, the water is safer to drink, the condition of the mosque is better and residents now have a medical clinic close at hand.

During a ribbon cutting ceremony the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, and Army Reserve unit based in Utica, NY, and part of Task Force 1st Armored Division, gathered with the residence of a small community within the Abu Ghraib neighborhood district to celebrate the completion of a medical clinic, the restoration of a mosque and a new water system Jan 24.

Now that the Abala Medical Clinic is open to the public, it will provide primary medical treatment for the area. Until now, the people there traveled 10 miles for the nearest hospital—a long distance for a people with little transportation said Sgt. Amy Fish, a member of the direct support team for the 414th.

"We're proud to open the medical clinic here because it is providing medical service for an underserved population," said Col. John Huntley, commander of the 414th.

While contractors started rebuilding the clinic, the civil affairs team also acquired funds to repair the mosque next door.

Staff Sgt. Louis Poliselli, leader of the 414th direct support team, said backing this second project supported the coalition forces' overall goal of winning the hearts and minds of the people.

"This shows that we're working with religious leaders," said Poliselli. "It doesn't matter if they are Christian or Muslim, we want to help everybody out."

"They see that we're willing to do anything we can to help rebuild the country," said Fish. "This means a lot to the people here."

As the funds for the two projects came in, the civil affairs team went a step further and obtained enough money to reroute the community's drinking water. According to Fish, the people in the



Sgt. Amy Fish, a member of the direct support team of the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, based in Utica, NY, and local Abu Ghraib community officials cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Abala Medical Clinic west of Baghdad Jan 24. Photo by Spc. Chad Wilkerson)

area drew from wells with a high concentration of sulfur. This made the drinking water unsafe to consume.

"Now we've tapped into a mainline that is hooked to a purification system," said Fish. "From the mainline, we ran drinking-water pipes to the schools in this area, as well as the medical center and the mosque."

As the residents of the community celebrate this step toward better living conditions, the civil affairs soldiers also celebrate the progress they've made. As Huntley said, it's only a small step toward a promising future for Iraq.

"We are in the business of pulling together infrastructure," said Huntley. "It's going to help the county carry on by itself after we leave. So we're very interested in setting the stage for success. It's just a start, but we're going to use this as a springboard to continue progress here."

The Old Ironsides Report

February 8, 2004

News...

9/11 Panel to Interview Security Adviser

WASHINGTON (AP) - The commission reviewing the Sept. 11 attacks is hearing from President Bush's national security adviser as it tries to determine what the government could have done to prevent the terrorist strikes. Condoleezza Rice was to meet with the commission Saturday at the White House. Senior administration officials said before the session that Rice would be open and cooperative as she can and would work with the commission as long as needed. Rice is the top administration official to go before the commission.

U.N. Elections Team Arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade Saturday at a bus carrying Iraqi soldiers west of Baghdad, wounding five of them and a civilian bystander, officials said. Also Saturday, a U.N. team arrived in Baghdad to study whether elections can be held before the handover of power to Iraqis by June 30. Elsewhere, U.S.-allied Kurdish forces in northern Iraq captured a suspected member of Ansar al-Islam, a radical Muslim group, as he tried to enter the country from Iran, an Iraqi official said.

Rumsfeld, in Europe, Defends Iraq War

MUNICH, Germany (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld offered a spirited defense Saturday of the U.S. decision to depose Iraq's Saddam Hussein and said Libya's Moammar Gadhafi might have avoided a similar fate by voluntarily giving up its weapons of mass destruction. In a speech to the Munich Conference on Security Policy, the defense secretary insisted that President Bush was right to have invaded.

Kerry Says He Can Vie With Bush in South

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Democratic front-runner John Kerry said Saturday he'll campaign against President Bush in the South, dismissing Republican assertions that he is too liberal and out of touch to win in Dixie. "This administration is busy trying to paint everybody else as out of touch, out of synch, somehow out of the mainstream," Kerry said. "But let me tell you something: I'm not worried about coming down South and talking to people about jobs, schools, health care and the environment. I think it's (the president) who ought to worry about coming down here."

Girl Dies After Second Head Is Removed

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) - An infant girl died Saturday after surgery to remove a second head, her mother said. A medical team completed the operation Friday evening but said 8-week-old Rebeca Martinez had been susceptible to infection or hemorrhaging. The baby died 12 hours after the surgery, believed to be the first of its kind.

In other news...

2nd American in Brazil Fined for Gesture

By ALAN CLENDENNING, Associated Press Writer
SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) -- A second American agreed to pay a hefty fine for making an obscene gesture during fingerprinting procedures for U.S. citizens in Brazil, police said Saturday.

Douglas A. Skolnick won't be allowed to leave the southeastern resort town of Foz do Iguacu until he pays the equivalent of \$17,200 for raising his middle finger when he was fingerprinted and photographed.

The customs requirements were imposed in response to similar U.S. rules for citizens of Brazil and many other countries. The United States says its rules will help prevent terrorists from entering the country.

Skolnick, who arrived in Brazil on Friday with a tour group, was taken before a judge early Saturday after being arrested and jailed for hours on the charge of showing contempt to authorities.

Skolnick, 55, of New Jersey, said he made the gesture as a joke, agreed to pay the fine and told the judge he was sorry, Koren said.

On Jan. 14, American Airlines pilot Dale Robin Hersh was arrested on the same charge after making a similar gesture when he was fingerprinted in Sao Paulo, the capital. Hersh returned home after paying a \$12,750 fine.

After the court hearing, Skolnick was taken to the hotel where the tour group is staying. He was being kept inside his room with police standing guard outside while the group toured the area, famed for its waterfalls.

Foz do Iguacu sits at the border with Argentina and Paraguay, about 500 miles southeast of Sao Paulo. Skolnick's tour group arrived from Santiago, Chile, on a chartered flight.

Overtaken Van Spills 700 Live Rodents

PEARISBURG, Va. (AP) -- A cargo van filled with cages carrying more than 700 gerbils, rats, mice and other rodents overturned Thursday, sending the animals scurrying onto a highway and sparking a bizarre large-scale rescue of the small animals.

The accident occurred when the van, driven by Thomas Marcinko of Zanesville, Ohio, hit an icy patch of U.S. 460 and ran off the left side of the road, hit a guardrail, overturned and slid onto the shoulder.

The animals, being transported in plastic cages, made a break for freedom.

"We caught probably 20 or 25 outside the vehicle. We caught another 25 inside the vehicle," said Bill Davis, one of eight members of the Giles County Lifesaving Squad who responded to a call for help. "Then we realized they were everywhere."

Marcinko walked away from the accident, and once he was checked out, the search for the critters was on.

"As cold as it is outside, we couldn't just leave them," Davis said. "I just started throwing them in back of the ambulance."

Chaplain's thought for the day...

Be doers

It is time for us all to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever - the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it. - Vincent Lombardi

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22).

The Old Ironsides Report

February 8, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2004

As of: Saturday, February 07, 2004 8:44:37 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	Start Time
00:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG XII: TEXAS TECH @ KANSAS		THE DIVISION : - FACES IN THE CROWD	CELEBRATION OF VICTORY - WHAT YOU THINK YOU WANT MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU NEED	00:00
00:30				CORAL RIDGE HOUR - FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE	00:30
01:00		COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: ARIZONA STATE @ CALIFORNIA	WINGS OF THE DOVE	CHRISTOPHER CLOSEUP - JUDAS	01:00
01:30				CAFE VIDEO : - CAFE VIDEO CLASSICS	01:30
02:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CUSA: UAB @ LOUISVILLE			HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30				AIR FORCE TV NEWS	02:30
03:00		SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03'-04') : - ALEC BALDWIN/MISSY ELLIOT	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - PHATRAT AND THE MANATEES	ESPNEWS	03:00
03:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - HOW TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD	DISCOVERCARD COUNTDOWN TO GREEN	03:30
04:00	NHL - 2004 NHL YOUNG STARS GAME		MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - BUDWEISER SHOOTOUT	04:00
04:30		LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD	REAL VIDEOS : - THE WAITING		04:30
05:00	NHL - 2004 NHL SUPERSKILLS COMPETITION		THE SIMPSONS : - BART VS. LISA VS. 3RD GRADE		05:00
05:30		THE ENTERTAINERS	MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE	ESPNEWS	05:30
06:00			EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - MARIE'S SCULPTURE	WISHBONE : - A TALE OF TWO SITTERS	06:00
06:30	SPORTSCENTER	AMERICAN ATHLETE	THE KING OF QUEENS : - BETTER CAMARA	SESAME STREET SPECIALS : - SESAME STREET VISITS THE FIREHOUSE	06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN DREAMS : - THE CARPETBAGGERS	THE COLOR OF FRIENDSHIP	07:00
07:30		HOUR OF POWER - COMPASSION, CONSCIENCE, COMMITMENT			07:30
08:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG EAST: PITTSBURGH @ NOTRE DAME	CELEBRATION OF VICTORY - WHAT YOU THINK YOU WANT MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU NEED	M*A*S*H : - WHAT'S UP DOC?		08:00
08:30		CORAL RIDGE HOUR - FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE	THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW : - JUST FRIENDS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - VALENTINE'S DAY / THE PAPER	08:30
09:00		CHRISTOPHER CLOSEUP - JUDAS	ALL IN THE FAMILY : - NO SMOKING	MOTORWEEK	09:00
09:30		CAFE VIDEO : - CAFE VIDEO CLASSICS	THE TWILIGHT ZONE : - TWENTY TWO	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES	09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	WISHBONE : - A TALE OF TWO SITTERS	FANTASY ISLAND : - SALEM/ SUPERSTAR	WWE SMACKDOWN!	10:00
10:30		SESAME STREET SPECIALS : - SESAME STREET VISITS THE FIREHOUSE			10:30
11:00	DAVIS CUP TENNIS TOURNAMENT - FIRST ROUND: DOUBLES (AUSTRIA VS USA)	THE COLOR OF FRIENDSHIP	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - PHATRAT AND THE MANATEES	STARGATE SG-1 : - REDEMPTION (PART 1)	11:00
11:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - HOW TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD		11:30
12:00			MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	HEADLINE NEWS	12:00
12:30		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - VALENTINE'S DAY / THE PAPER	REAL VIDEOS : - THE WAITING	ESPNEWS	12:30
13:00		MOTORWEEK	THE SIMPSONS : - BART VS. LISA VS. 3RD GRADE	JUDGING AMY : - DAMAGE CONTROL	13:00
13:30		EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES	MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE		13:30
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - MARIE'S SCULPTURE	NOTTING HILL	14:00
14:30		AIR FORCE TV NEWS	THE KING OF QUEENS : - BETTER CAMARA		14:30
15:00	PGA TOUR - AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM: THIRD ROUND	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - SEC: GEORGE TECH @ TENNESSEE	AMERICAN DREAMS : - THE CARPETBAGGERS		15:00
16:00			M*A*S*H : - WHAT'S UP DOC?		16:00
16:15				HEADLINE NEWS	16:15
16:30			THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW : - JUST FRIENDS	SEINFELD : - THE OUTING	16:30
17:00		SPORTSCENTER	ALL IN THE FAMILY : - NO SMOKING	MEET THE PRESS	17:00
17:30			THE TWILIGHT ZONE : - TWENTY TWO		17:30
18:00	THE SPORTS REPORTERS	WWE SMACKDOWN!	FANTASY ISLAND : - SALEM/ SUPERSTAR	AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	18:00
18:30	SPORTSCENTER			ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	18:30
19:00		STARGATE SG-1 : - REDEMPTION (PART 1)	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON : - PHATRAT AND THE MANATEES		19:00
19:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT		HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - HOW TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD	ESPNEWS	19:30
20:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - QUALIFYING	ESPNEWS	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	SPORTSCENTER	20:00
20:30		NBA - LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ ORLANDO MAGIC	REAL VIDEOS : - THE WAITING		20:30
21:00			THE SIMPSONS : - BART VS. LISA VS. 3RD GRADE	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG 12: OKLAHOMA @ TEXAS	21:00
21:30			MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE		21:30
22:00			EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND : - MARIE'S SCULPTURE		22:00
22:30			THE KING OF QUEENS : - BETTER CAMARA		22:30
23:00	NBA - SEATTLE SUPERSONICS @ PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS	NHL ALL-STAR GAME - WESTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STARS VS EASTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STARS	AMERICAN DREAMS : - THE CARPETBAGGERS	NHL ALL-STAR GAME - WESTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STARS VS EASTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STARS	23:00

Today in history:

Feb. 8, 1915: *BIRTH OF A NATION* OPENS

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) On February 8, 1915, D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*, a landmark film in the history of cinema, premieres at Clune's Auditorium in Los Angeles. The silent film was America's first feature-length motion picture and a box-office smash, and during its unprecedented three hours Griffith popularized countless filmmaking techniques that remain central to the art today. However, because of its explicit racism, *Birth of a Nation* is also regarded as one of the most offensive films ever made. Actually titled *The Clansman* for its first month of release, the film provides a highly subjective history of the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan. Studied today as a masterpiece of political propaganda, *Birth of a Nation* caused riots in several cities and was banned in others but was seen by millions.

David Wark Griffith was born in La Grange, Kentucky, in 1875, the son of an ex-Confederate colonel. His father died when he was seven, and he later dropped out of high school to help support his family. After holding various jobs, he began a successful career as a theater actor. He wrote several plays and, on the advice of a colleague, sent some scenarios for one-reel films to the Edison Film Company and the Biograph Company. In 1908, he was hired as an actor and writer for the Biograph studio and soon was promoted to a position as director.

Between 1908 and 1913, Griffith made more than 400 short films for Biograph. With the assistance of his talented cinematographer, G. W. "Billy" Bitzer, he invented or refined such important cinematic techniques as the close-up, the scenic long shot, the moving-camera shot, and the fade-in and fade-out. His contributions to the art of editing during this period include the flashback and parallel editing, in which two or more separate scenes are intermixed to give the impression that the separate actions are happening simultaneously. He also raised the standard on movie acting, initiating scene rehearsals before shooting and assembling a stock company of film professionals. Many of these actors, including Lillian and Dorothy Gish, Mary Pickford, Mae Marsh, and Lionel Barrymore, went on to become some of Hollywood's first movie stars.

Taking his cue from the longer spectacle films produced in Italy, in 1913 Griffith produced *Judith of Bethulia*, a biblical adaptation that, at four reels, was close to an hour long. It was his last Biograph film. Two years later, he released his epic 10-reel masterpiece, *Birth of a Nation*, for Mutual Films.

Birth of a Nation, based on Thomas Dixon's novel *The Clansman*, tells the turbulent story of American history in the 1860s, as it followed the fictional lives of two families from the North and the South. Throughout its three hours, African Americans are portrayed as brutish, lazy, morally degenerate, and dangerous. In the film's climax, the Ku Klux Klan rises up to save the South from the Reconstruction Era-prominence of African Americans in Southern public life.

Riots and protests broke out at screenings of *Birth of a Nation* in a number of Northern cities, and the recently formed National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) embarked on a major campaign to have the film banned. It eventually was censored in several cities, and Griffith agreed to change or cut out some of the film's especially offensive scenes.

Nevertheless, millions of people happily paid to witness the spectacle of *Birth of a Nation*, which featured a cast of more 10,000 people and a dramatic story line far more sophisticated than anything released to that date. For all the gross historical inaccuracies, certain scenes, such as meetings of Congress, Civil War battles, and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, were meticulously recreated, lending the film an air of legitimacy that made it so effective as propaganda.

The Ku Klux Klan, suppressed by the federal government in the 1870s, was refounded in Georgia in December 1915 by William J. Simmons. In addition to being anti-black, the new Klan was anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant, and by the early 1920s it had spread throughout the North as well as the South. At the peak of its strength in 1924, membership in the KKK is estimated to have been as high as three million. There is no doubt that *Birth of a Nation* played no small part in winning wide public acceptance for an organization that was originally founded as an anti-black and anti-federal terrorist group.

Of Griffith's later films, *Intolerance* (1916) is the most important. Hailed by many as the finest achievement of the silent-film era, it pursues four story lines simultaneously, which cumulatively act to prove humanity's propensity for persecution. Some regard it as an effort at atonement by Griffith for *Birth of a Nation*, while others believe he meant it as an answer to those who persecuted him for his political views. *Intolerance* was a commercial failure but had a significant influence on the development of film art.

Griffith went on to make 27 more films. In 1919, he founded United Artists with Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and Charlie Chaplin.

Before D. W. Griffith's time, motion pictures were short, uninspiring, and poorly produced, acted, and edited. Under his guidance, filmmaking became an art form. Despite the harm his *Birth of a Nation* inflicted on African Americans, he will forever be regarded as the father of cinema.